

2024 December
-McLean County SWCD Minutes

The Board of Directors of the McLean County SWCD had their regular board meeting on December 11, 2024, at the USDA Service Center in Normal. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Kelley at 10:05 a.m. Directors present were Sally Breese, Jeff Mathews, Irvin Bane, Howard Heatherwick and Associate Director Garrett Conaty. District employees present were Brett Irwin, Ross Fogle and Jackie Kraft. Cole Yoder, NRCS Acting District Conservationist was present.

~Financials/Minutes:

Howard motioned to approve the November minutes as written. Sally seconded. Motion carried. Jeff made a motion to approve the December checks for payment, Sally seconded. Motion carried. Howard made a motion to approve the financials as written. Jeff seconded. Motion carried.

~Cole gave the NRCS report as written: 16 CSP renewals were pre-approved for funding in McLean County. Available money for conservation practices through the program has doubled from FY24 to FY25. A new DC has been selected for Mclean/Livingston counties, start date TBD.

~Jackie gave the Watershed report as written: waiting on \$121,000 payment from IEPA for September invoice submitted for 319 implementation grant. Rain Garden still needs to be constructed. Lake Bloomington Cover Crop Program totaled 957 acres signed up along with \$42,591.20 in cost share dollars allocated to reimburse producers. Funding decision for NACD TA Grant of \$65,000 is anticipated this month. 501c3 is completed for Mclean County SWCD Foundation. Received a \$5000 donation from Chris Kemp. Jackie brought up the storage shed and received an estimate of \$6300 to siding the storage shed with metal siding and roof. Irvin made a motion to repair the storage shed based on estimated costs. Jeff seconded. Motion Carried.

~Brett gave the District report as written: Eric Wahls CPP cover crop contract has been completed for a total of \$2887.75 in cost share and Jack Pitts CPP waterway contract has been completed for a total of \$5434.13 in cost share. Jeff made a motion to approve these payments, Howard seconded. Motion carried. With \$541.50 left in FY23 CPP funds, transfers of \$187.67 to Clay County SWCD and \$353.83 to Douglas County SWCD were initiated to zero FY23 funds. Howard motioned to approve these transfers. Sally Seconded. Motion carried.

~Ross gave the Watershed report: December E-Newsletter campaign has been developed and distributed. Website updated for 2024 Mclean County Conservationist of the Year. 15 sponsors have signed up so far for 2025 Newsletter, E-News, and website advertising.

~Old Business: Howard brought up the McLean County Board resolution of state action to Protect the Mahomet Aquifer that was presented at last meeting and made a motion to the Mclean County SWCD support this resolution. Sally seconded. Motion carried. Irvin made a motion to approve Jarrod Boyle's bid for Shoreline restoration of \$112,000 at Lake Evergreen in 2025. Howard seconded. Motion carried.

~New Business: Howard motioned to approved Christmas bonuses of \$550 each to Jackie, Ross, and Brett. Irvin seconded. Motion carried. The next Board meeting was set for January 8 at 7:45 AM following the Annual Meeting. The meeting adjourned at 11:10 AM.